



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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NOTES: Advanced Placement (AP), SAT and PSAT data for local schools are available from those schools.

MORE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AP EXAMINATIONS MORE EXAMS SCORED AT HIGHEST LEVELS

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – The number of Kentucky public high school students taking [Advanced Placement](#) (AP) examinations and scoring at high levels continues to rise, data released today from the [College Board](#) indicate.

Since 2007, the number of Kentucky public high school students taking AP examinations has risen by nearly 44 percent. The number of tests scored at 3, 4 or 5 has increased by about 75 percent.

	Number of AP Test-Takers	Number of Tests	Number of Scores 3-5
2007	13,208	20,742	9,889
2008	14,664	23,280	10,925
2009	16,958	27,129	13,178
2010	19,604	31,742	14,837
2011	23,547	37,977	17,404

The performance of ethnic groups in Kentucky's public schools showed increases from 2005 to 2010. Since 2005, the number of non-white public school students taking one or more AP exams has more than doubled.

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKING ONE OR MORE AP EXAMS - BY ETHNICITY

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
African American	550	686	814	1,011	1,295
American Indian	36	45	41	60	76
Asian	555	602	693	720	832
Hispanic	228	283	388	448	577
White	11,359	12,511	14,369	16,496	19,794
Other	263	303	409	442	538
No Response	217	234	244	427	435
TOTAL	13,208	14,664	16,958	19,604	23,547

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Since 2007, the number of AP test scores of 3, 4 or 5 has risen for students in all ethnic groups.

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH SCORES OF 3-5 ON AP EXAMS - BY ETHNICITY

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
African American	166	204	255	287	372
American Indian	12	19	21	25	24
Asian	356	406	471	477	561
Hispanic	129	150	190	223	301
White	5,640	6,091	7,298	8,247	9,633
Other	151	150	182	199	270
No Response	111	112	130	224	170
TOTAL	6,565	7,132	8,547	9,682	11,331

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Based on their performance on rigorous AP exams, students can earn credit, advanced placement or both for college.

Schools and districts determine prerequisite requirements for student eligibility. Common criteria include grades, teacher recommendations and PSAT and other test scores. The College Board encourages, but does not require, a non-exclusive admittance policy.

Senate Bill 74, passed by the Kentucky General Assembly in 2002, required the development of a core AP curriculum and the expansion of access to AP courses through the Kentucky Virtual High School. Currently, 34 AP courses are offered in Kentucky, including art history, biology, chemistry, English literature, United States history, physics and statistics.

In November 2005, the [National Governors Association](#) awarded grants of \$500,000 each to Kentucky and five other states to improve the access to and success in AP courses. Kentucky has used its award to increase student and teacher preparation for AP and to develop AP expansion. Students eligible for free and reduced-price school meals qualify for waivers of the fees to take the AP exams.

In 2007, the [National Math and Science Initiative](#) (NMSI) formed a partnership with the [Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation](#) (KSTC) to expand access to, preparation for and participation in academically rigorous coursework such as AP classes.

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Through the Advanced Placement Teacher Training and Incentive Program (APTIP), NMSI has committed \$13.2 million in matching funds to AdvanceKentucky over a six-year period through monies from Exxon Mobil Corporation and the Dell and Gates Foundations. Federal funding also is provided by the Kentucky Department of Education through the U.S. Department of Education AP Incentive Program and by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

First-year results reported in 2009 showed an increase of 14 times the national rate of growth. An additional 20 schools have joined AdvanceKentucky for the 2011-12 school year, for a total of 64 schools and an estimated 17,000 enrollments in AP math, science and English classes. For more details on AdvanceKentucky, please visit <http://www.advancekentucky.com>.

The College Board also released data on [SAT](#) and [PSAT/NMSQT](#) scores. The scores of Kentucky public high school students who took the SAT I in 2011 remained stable in the critical reading and writing portions, but dropped on the mathematics portion, compared to 2010's results. At the same time, however, the number of students taking the test decreased by about 2.3 percent from 2010 to 2011. Therefore, these data are difficult to interpret.

	SAT I CRITICAL READING	SAT I MATH	SAT I WRITING
2007	562	566	547
2008	566	573	550
2009	575	581	560
2010	578	585	563
2011	578	580	563

A very small percentage of Kentucky public school students take the SAT I -- only 4 percent of graduating public school seniors participated in the test in 2011. Due to the varying degrees of participation among states, and changes in the number of students taking the test each year, the College Board cautions against making between- state or between-year comparisons based on mean scores.

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The mean scores of Kentucky public high school sophomores and juniors who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) showed slight increases in at the sophomore and junior levels. The PSAT/NMSQT is scored on a scale of 0 to 80.

YEAR	GRADE LEVEL	NUMBER OF PSAT/NMSQT TEST-TAKERS	MEAN CRITICAL READING	MEAN MATHEMATICS	MEAN WRITING
2007	Sophomore	4,581	47.7	48.2	45.7
2008	Sophomore	4,071	47.4	48.0	46.6
2009	Sophomore	4,060	47.3	48.7	46.2
2010	Sophomore	4,509	46.6	47.3	45.7
2011	Sophomore	4,605	47.8	48.7	45.6
2007	Junior	9,525	49.6	49.4	47.2
2008	Junior	8,901	49.6	49.9	48.2
2009	Junior	8,354	49.7	50.8	48.1
2010	Junior	7,802	49.8	50.3	48.4
2011	Junior	7,939	50.9	51.2	48.7

Some Kentucky public school districts offer the PSAT/NMSQT to students at the 9th-grade level, which may impact the number of students who participate as sophomores. Score information for 9th-grade students is not yet available from the College Board.

The SAT is a three-hour test that measures verbal and mathematical reasoning skills students have developed over time and skills they need to be successful academically. Many colleges and universities use the SAT as one indicator of a student's readiness to do college-level work. SAT scores are compared with the scores of other applicants and the accepted scores at an institution and can be used as a basis for awarding merit-based financial aid. Kentucky colleges and universities typically use the ACT as an admission requirement, which is reflected in the small percentage of students who take the SAT.

The SAT is scored on a scale of 200-800 (for math and verbal) and is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors. The test is administered several times a year.

The PSAT/NMSQT is co-sponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test. The PSAT/NMSQT measures critical reading skills, mathematics problem-solving skills and writing skills.

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